

## E-COMMERCE USING AN IDENTIFIER

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ABSTRACT

5           In accordance with the invention, a signal encoded with a plurality of characters  
("transaction identifier") identifies a transaction between a buyer and a seller. The  
transaction identifier includes a first string of characters that identifies the buyer and a  
second string of characters that identifies a product. In one embodiment, the transaction  
10       identifier further includes a third string that identifies at least one of the following: the  
seller; the delivery method; the issuer of the transaction identifier; the expiration date of  
the transaction identifier; the creation date of the transaction identifier; and the maximum  
number of times the transaction identifier can be used. In another embodiment, the  
transaction identifier is created before the buyer is aware of the transaction.